

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
305 N Minnesota St.  
Carson City, NV 89703  
775/882-1534 [www.stpeterscarsoncity.org](http://www.stpeterscarsoncity.org)**

## **THE MARRIAGE RITE**

The Celebration & Blessing of a Marriage is a joyful event in your life and in the life of the parish. We at St. Peter's want your wedding to be just that - a joyful celebration of the relationship. We want to help you anchor your marriage in God's love as well as in the love and support of the community as we enter the new millenium.

### **The Church and Your Marriage**

The health of your relationship is important to the church. Thus the church has canons:

You must be able to contract a marriage legally according to civil law;

One person must be baptized;

There must be two witnesses present;

A minimum thirty-day notice is required;

In the event of a re-marriage, permission must be secured by the clergy from the diocesan bishop in order to solemnize the re-marriage. After a second divorce, the couple is invited to secure a civil marriage which can be blessed by the church.

### **Church Requirements**

Donations are to be dealt with prior to the ceremony, easiest when the license is brought to the church office the week prior, given in gratitude for your marriage:

|          |       |                                        |
|----------|-------|----------------------------------------|
| Church   | \$500 | payable to St Peter's Episcopal Church |
| Clergy   | \$500 | payable to the officiating cleric      |
| Musician | \$150 | negotiated with musician               |

Our hope is that the couple has some connection with the church, through baptism, Sunday attendance at one time, or family who are active here or some other Episcopal church. Couples who come to St. Peter's seeking marriage are encouraged to attend Sunday worship.

It is the couple's responsibility to meet with the clergy prior to other arrangements; Dates for a wedding are set with the clergy, paying attention to the parish calendar

## **PREMARITAL PREPARATION**

The canons of the church stipulate thirty-day notice on any request to solemnize a marriage - we prefer six months or more to ensure adequate time for preparation, which averages three to five sessions:

Several sessions are dedicated to an inventory called Prepare/Enrich. It costs \$35 to score, less online, and is designed to measure attitudes, values & family of origin; Several sessions focus on developing a solid relationship between clergy & couple, sharing our stories, allowing the marriage rite an extra note of personal warmth; The final session focuses on the service itself, using the suggested rite outlined in the Prayer Book as a framework.

## **THE WEDDING**

Weddings are scheduled between the hours of 10am and 4pm on Saturdays, except during the season of Lent. We encourage lively services with music and humor.

The symbols of the marriage rite are: the couple; the exchange of vows; the rings; the Eucharist when used. There is no need for other embellishments, like Unity candles.

The couple is invited to make many decisions about the nature of the service, the biggest of which is whether to celebrate the Eucharist as part of the marriage rite. Nuptial Eucharists are encouraged, but not as private communion. All the baptized are welcome to receive in our tradition. If family or guests are unfamiliar with the custom of receiving Communion, or are uncomfortable because of their religious beliefs, the simple marriage rite works best.

There are lessons from the scriptures suggested for reading during the service. The couple may be familiar with other passages from the Bible which would also be appropriate. As a way of participating, members of family and friends are encouraged to serve as readers during the service.

A rehearsal, though not necessary, serves the purpose of orienting family and members of the wedding party to the general flow of the service. We do not do 'lock-step processions' or picture-perfect wedding scenes. The couple are ministers of the marriage and the wedding party and family are leaders of worship.

## **Regarding weddings in the church building:**

St Peter's church building needs no adornment, so flowers are kept to a minimum. There are two shelves the altar pillars on which simple arrangements can be placed. Ask before you make arrangements with a florist who is unfamiliar with the building. The building is beautiful enough as is without embellishment. Aisle bouquets and bows don't work. Aisle runners are not used since there is no center aisle. The use of rice or confetti is not appropriate. These days, bubbles work!

Music is arranged separately, including honoraria for musicians. The church office will supply names and numbers of musicians upon request.

Guests may be invited to offer prayers on your behalf during the service. Also, in order to welcome your guests, the clergy may step out prior to the service to welcome and encourage your guests to participate in the wedding.

Professional photography & formal poses take place prior to the service. When the service concludes, the couple needs to be with their guests, not some stranger with a camera. Family members may take pictures afterward for a brief time. Videotaping can be done from the choir loft in the back of the church building. Guests are asked not to take pictures during the service.

**MARRIAGE RITE INFORMATION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Bachelor / Widower                      Number of this marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ Communicant \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

(Parents' residence) \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

Bride's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden / Widow                      Number of this marriage \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ Communicant \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name \_\_\_\_\_

(Parents' residence) \_\_\_\_\_

**MARRIAGE RITE INFORMATION**

License # \_\_\_\_\_ County issued \_\_\_\_\_

Date of ceremony \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

Place: Church \_\_\_\_ Chapel \_\_\_\_ Residence \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharist \_\_\_\_ Organist \_\_\_\_\_ Choir \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_

Florist \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer \_\_\_\_\_

Single/Double ring \_\_\_\_\_

Names of witnesses:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address after marriage \_\_\_\_\_